United Nations A/C.2/54/L.21

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
3 November 1999

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 99 (c)
Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: women in development

Guyana:* draft resolution

Women in development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/195 of 18 December 1997 and all other Assembly resolutions on the integration of women in development, and also the resolutions and the agreed conclusions[1] adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on the integration of women in development,

Reaffirming the Beijing Platform for Action[2] and the outcome of recent major United Nations conferences and summits,

Recalling the ministerial communiqué of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council on the theme "The role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women",[3]

Reaffirming that gender equality is of fundamental importance for achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development and that investing in the development of women has a multiplier effect in this regard,

Recognizing the significant contribution that women make to economic activities and the major force that they represent for change and development in all sectors of the economy, especially in key areas such as agriculture, industry and services,

---

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 7* (E/1997/27), chap. I, sect. C.1, agreed conclusions 1997/3.

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/54/3), chap. III, para. 23.

99-32766 (E) 041199

Reaffirming that women are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing that the rapid development of information technology and other new technologies presents both opportunities and challenges to women, in particular in developing countries,

Concerned that the continued discrimination against women, and the denial or lack of equal rights and access to, *inter alia*, education and training, employment opportunities, capital, technology and other areas of production hinder them from achieving their full potential,

Recognizing that the difficult socio-economic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular in the least developed countries, have resulted in the acceleration of the feminization of poverty and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

Aware that, although globalization and liberalization processes may have created employment opportunities for women in some countries, they have made women in developing countries, in particular in Africa and the least developed countries, more vulnerable to increased economic volatility, job insecurity and loss of livelihood,

Recognizing that in the field of agriculture women have been disproportionately affected by the negative effects of market liberalization, since the opening of local markets to cheaper imports and the removal of agricultural subsidies have in general led to the loss of employment among small-scale farmers who are more likely to be women than men,

Emphasizing the promotion of programmes aimed at financial intermediation with a view to ensuring the access of rural women to agricultural inputs and implements and, in particular, to easing collateral requirements for access to credit by women,

Recognizing that the informal sector is a major source of entrepreneurship and employment for women in developing countries and that data collection on its important contribution should be improved,

Expressing its concern about the poor representation of women in economic decision-making and stressing the importance of inculcating a gender perspective in policy formulation and implementation,

Recognizing that an increase in paid employment may not always mean empowerment for women since, in general, the burden of household work and primary responsibility of women for childcare in many instances give rise to an onerous double working day for most women,

Stressing the need for a family-friendly work environment, including appropriate working hours, affordable childcare and flexible working hours, and emphasizing the principle of shared responsibility between women and men for the achievement of gender equality,

Noting the importance of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular its funds and programmes, including the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, in facilitating the advancement of women in development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the 1999 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development: Globalization, Gender and Work;[4]

2. *Calls* for the speedy and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action[2] and the relevant provisions contained in the outcomes of all other major United Nations conferences and summits and, in this regard, expresses the hope that the special session of the General Assembly on questions and issues related to women scheduled for the year 2000 can take tangible and significant steps to enhance the effective participation of women in development;

3. *Stresses* that a favourable and conducive national and international environment in all fields of life is necessary for the effective integration of women in development;

4. *Urges* Governments to develop and promote methodologies for mainstreaming a gender perspective into all aspects of policy-making, and also to develop national strategies for promoting sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities to generate income among disadvantaged women and women living in poverty;

5. *Urges* all Governments to ensure women's equal rights with men and their full and equal access to education, technology and economic resources, to increase and improve access to credit facilities, in particular for rural women and women in the informal sector, and to facilitate, where appropriate, the transition of women from the informal to the formal sector;

6. *Recognizes* the role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty, empowerment of women and generation of employment and, in this regard, encourages the strengthening of existing and emerging microcredit institutions and their capacities, including the support of international financial institutions;

7. *Stresses* the need for assistance that would enable women in developing countries to have full access to and use of new technologies, including information technologies, for their empowerment;

8. *Urges* Governments to design and revise laws that would ensure that women are accorded full and equal rights to own land and other property, including through the right of inheritance, and to undertake administrative reforms and other necessary measures that would give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies, access to markets and information;

9. *Requests* Governments to ensure the full participation of women in decision-making and policy formulation and implementation at all levels so that their priorities can be adequately reflected in national policy;

10. *Calls upon* Governments to promote, *inter alia*, through legislation, family-friendly and gender-sensitive work environments and also to promote the facilitation of breastfeeding for working mothers;

11. *Stresses* the need for Governments and employers to implement policies aimed at ensuring stability and security of work and to put in place social insurance policies that cover temporary, part-time, informal sector and home workers, a majority of whom are women;

12. *Calls upon* the international community to implement policies to ensure the stabilization of capital flows in order to prevent excess volatility and economic disruption which have a disproportionately negative impact on women, and to enhance trade

[4] A/54/227.

opportunities for developing countries in order to improve the economic conditions of women;

13. *Urges* the international community, the United Nations system and relevant organizations to give priority to assisting the efforts of developing countries to ensure the full and effective participation of women in deciding and implementing development strategies and integrating gender concerns into national programmes, including by providing adequate resources to operational activities for development;

14. *Calls upon* developed countries to strengthen their efforts to achieve, as soon as possible, the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance and, where agreed, within that target to earmark 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for the least developed countries, so as to enable the developing countries to implement strategies to eradicate poverty, promote productive employment and achieve gender equality;

15. *Urges* multilateral donors, international financial institutions and regional development banks to review and implement policies to support national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reach women, in particular in rural and remote areas;

16. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to integrate gender mainstreaming into all its programmes and policies, including in the integrated follow up to United Nations conferences, in accordance with agreed conclusions 1997/2 on gender mainstreaming adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997;[5]

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the sub-item entitled "Women in development".

---

[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* and addendum (A/52/3/Rev.1 and Add.1), chap. IV.A, para. 4.